



Mission Statement: Agriculture and Applied Economics Department

The Department of Agriculture and Applied Economics at Southwest Minnesota State University (SMSU) seeks to develop broad-minded and socially-responsible students. We provide a balanced educational program that challenges our students to be effective learners and leaders. As part of the comprehensive education at SMSU, AAE Department programs create academic and practical experiences designed to produce SMSU graduates who are competent analysts, effective communicators, critical thinkers and ethical decision-makers. We prepare our students to exercise cooperative leadership and make positive contributions to the agricultural economy. Our overarching goal is to help our students become citizens and professionals who properly manage scarce societal resources to benefit both our local community and the greater global economy.

SMSU Agribusiness Management Program Goals and Student Learning Outcomes (SLO's)

The first element of the AGBU Assessment includes program goals and their associated SLO's. When the AGBU faculty developed these goals, we were aiming to prepare our AGBU students to be productive members of society and for success in agribusiness-related careers. The SMSU Agribusiness Management program goals and SLO's are:

Goal 1. *Analytical Skills*

To develop analytical skills relevant to agribusiness management

o Student Learning Outcome 1.1

- ❖ Demonstrate an ability to apply economic principles to problems of farms, ranches, and other institutions in the food and fiber industries.

o Student Learning Outcome 1.2

- ❖ Demonstrate technological skills used in quantitative analysis, such as ability to perform statistical analysis using spreadsheet.

Goal 2. *Ethics*

To develop an understanding of ethical, socially responsible, and sustainable behavior

o Student Learning Outcome 2.1

- ❖ Demonstrate an understanding of the role of civic responsibility, including corporate and cooperative governance.

o Student Learning Outcome 2.2

- ❖ Demonstrate an ability to exercise judgment of environmental impacts of agribusiness decisions.

Goal 3. Leadership & Management

To develop effective leadership and management skills

- o **Student Learning Outcome 3.1**
 - ❖ Produce a project through working as a team.
- o **Student Learning Outcome 3.2**
 - ❖ Develop a business plan or case study on an agribusiness topic.

Goal 4. Information Literacy & Communication

To effectively evaluate and communicate agribusiness information

- o **Student Learning Outcome 4.1**
 - ❖ Effectively use appropriate data sources to obtain information on the agricultural and food sectors.
- o **Student Learning Outcome 4.2**
 - ❖ Communicate the results of literature reviews, experiments, and production data both orally and in writing.

Goal 5. Expanding Perspectives

To improve students' understanding and appreciation of broader issues relevant to agribusiness

- o **Student Learning Outcome 5.1**
 - ❖ Demonstrate an awareness of global issues relevant to agribusiness and agricultural development.
- o **Student Learning Outcome 5.2**
 - ❖ Demonstrate an appreciation for diversity in agribusiness employees, customers, and producers.

Goal 6. Critical Thinking

To develop critical thinking and problem solving skills

- o **Student Learning Outcome 6.1**
 - ❖ Demonstrate an ability to apply the scientific method in an area relevant to agribusiness and economics.
- o **Student Learning Outcome 6.2**
 - ❖ Be able to propose and assess economic policy solutions to agricultural and food issues.